

11PRTS

10070100 . Q5H092 FILING

10/070100  
J018 Rec'd PCT/PTO 28 FEB 2002

PERMANENT MAGNETIC LIQUID TREATING DEVICE

RELATED U.S. APPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED  
RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT

Not applicable.

REFERENCE TO MICROFICHE APPENDIX

Not applicable.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The invention relates to a permanent magnetic liquid treating device comprising a tubular housing in which ring magnets and magnetizable spacer discs are located, coaxially to the longitudinal axis of the housing, and which has connecting pieces at both ends, said device comprising means which cause a spiral motion of the liquid passing therethrough, and an inner tube which is located in the housing, coaxially to the longitudinal axis thereof and at a distance from the inner wall of the housing, the ends of said inner tube being connected liquid-tight to said connecting pieces, and the ring magnets and spacer discs being installed in the liquid-free space between the inner tube and the tubular housing so that they lie one behind the other in the direction of the longitudinal axis of the housing.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] A permanent magnetic liquid treating device of this kind is known by DE 195 32 357 A1 and this document forms the basis of the pre-characterizing part of claim 1. Such devices, which are also known

*DUS A1*

from other patent documents, are used especially for the magnetic treatment of water in order to avoid the formation of lime deposits at the inner wall of pipes and tanks by causing that the calcium carbonate which is dissolved in the water is deposited not at the walls but in the form of separable fine particles.

[0003] While the treating device referred to above is in principle suitable for this purpose, its effect is not yet fully satisfactory. The rotating turbine which in the known device is used for creating a spiral motion of the liquid flowing therethrough can not provide for a spiral motion which is constant over the total length of the device, and the construction of the known device furthermore causes an undesirable higher pressure drop.

#### BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0004] The object of the invention is therefore to improve a treating device of the above described type in such way that its construction is simplified and its effectiveness is clearly improved, that is that the formation of scale in pipes and tanks through which tap water flows but also in the liquid circulation of for example boilers or washing machines is avoided to an even higher degree.

[0005] This object is achieved by the dispositions of the characterizing part of claim 1. Preferred embodiments are described in the dependent claims.

[0006] By the cooperation of the specific coaxial arrangement of a stack of cylindrical ring magnets which are separated from each other by spacer discs consisting of metal and which surround an inner tube, with a helically wound strip consisting of a magnetizable rustproof metal, the width of which corresponds to the inner diameter of the inner tube and which is arranged in, said inner tube, the desired helical motion of the liquid flowing therethrough is realized in an even manner and practically without pressure drop and without moving parts, and an improvement of the magnetic flow which acts upon the

molecules of the water flowing therethrough is achieved. The device according to the invention is of notably simple construction and can be manufactured at low costs.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

[0007] Further features and advantages of the invention will become apparent by the following description of an embodiment, by way of example, and without limitation, referring to the attached drawings which show:

[0008] Fig. 1 a schematical view of an axial longitudinal section of a liquid treating device according to the invention, the strip being shown in side view;

[0009] Fig. 2 the arrangement of the ring magnets of fig. 1 without the housing and inner tube;

[0010] Fig. 3 and 4 a detail of two other embodiments of the inlet terminal part of the strip of the device of fig. 1.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0011] The permanent magnetic liquid treating device 1 shown in fig. 1 comprises a tubular housing 2 in which ring magnets 3 and magnetizable spacer discs 4 are arranged coaxially to the longitudinal axis of the housing and which at both ends comprises connecting pieces 5 which are formed in one piece with the inner tube 6 and form an extension thereof. The tubular housing 2 consists of a non-magnetizable material, here an aluminum alloy, while the inner tube 6 and the tubular connecting pieces 5 consists of a magnetizable rustproof metal, here special (stainless) steel, and the ring magnets and spacer discs are mounted one behind the other in form of a stack in the liquid-free space between the inner tube and the tubular housing. The stack is held unmovable and tightly enclosed in the housing by terminal sleeves 9 which are screwed on the connecting pieces 5 from both sides, an elastic sealing ring (O-ring) 10 being

inserted between the stack and each sleeve. The terminal sleeves 9 preferably consists also of special steel.

[0012] In order to cause a helical movement of the liquid flowing therethrough, a strip 7 of magnetizable rustproof metal which is wound to 1 to 2 helical windings is arranged in the inner tube 6, the width of the strip corresponding to the inner diameter of the inner tube 6. This strip is fixedly connected at both ends with the tubular connecting pieces, for example by welding to the inner wall thereof. The stack of ring magnets 3 which are all alike and spacer discs 4 is arranged as shown in fig. 2, so that beginning from the liquid inlet E, after a single spacer disc 4, a ring magnet 3 with its south pole at the inlet side, then is followed by two single spacer discs 4 and three ring magnets 3, each separated from the next by two spacer discs (4) and each with a polarization inverted from one to the next, and at last two twinned ring magnets 3a, 3b, again separated from the preceding ring magnet (3) and from each other by two spacer discs (4) and having a polarization which is inverted in respect to the preceding ring magnets and to the following twinned ring magnets, the single ring magnets 3a, 3b forming the twinned ring magnets contacting each other with opposite poles, so that at the outlet side of the stack there is a south pole, and the stack is terminated by a thicker spacer disc 4.

[0013] In the embodiment shown, the ring magnets have each an axial dimension of 9 mm and the spacer discs 4 an axial dimension of 3 mm, the last spacer disc at the outlet side having a thickness of 6 mm. Also in this example as shown, the inner tube 6 has a diameter of 0.5 inch (12.6 mm) and a length of 100 mm, and the helically wound strip is formed as a helix from a sheet of special steel of 0.5 mm thickness.

[0014] The helical windings of the wound strip lie within the inner tube 6, that is between the connecting pieces 5, and their number can be between 1 and 3, for example 2 as shown in fig. 1. The helically wound strip 7 extends into both connecting pieces 5 with each a diametrical opposed terminal part 8

without helical winding and is in this part provided with a recess 8a in order to facilitate fixation at the connecting part 5, for example by spot welding.

[0015] Optionally, the strip 7 can be formed without recess 8a at the inlet end thereof and can be provided with an inlet tip 14 which projects from the connecting piece 5 (fig. 3). This tip is directed against the direction of the flow and is rounded in front and at the edges 14a and preferably, at least at the edge, provided with smooth plastic coating. Instead, the inlet tip 12 can also be rounded with rounded edges 12a and preferably also be provided with a plastic coating (at least at the edge) (fig. 4). These smooth inlet tips avoid the attaching of fluff on the inlet edge of the metal strip 7. Optionally, the metal strip 7 can be coated with plastic material over all of its length.

[0016] If required, the flow section at the liquid outlet can be somewhat diminished by means of an insert 11 which is held at the end of the outlet connecting piece 5 in order to upwardly reduce the velocity of the liquid flow upwards of this end. In order to facilitate the installation of the permanent magnetic liquid treating device in a liquid conduct the connecting pieces 5 are provided at their end with an appropriate threading for connection to a pipe or provided with smooth ondulations for insertion in and fixation of connecting tubing.